

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 05198 171705Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

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UNCLAS ASUNCION 5198

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO GOP STATEMENT ON ARREST OF JOURNALIST
ROBERTO THOMPSON

REF: ASUNCION 5053

AFTER EDITORIAL FLURRY LAST WEEKEND, ALL DAILY
NEWSPAPERS WERE SILENT TODAY ON CONTINUED DETENTION
OF ABC COLOR MANAGING EDITOR ROBERTO THOMPSON.

FRIDAY INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUED LONG-AWAITED PUBLIC
STATEMENT GIVING REASON FOR THOMPSON'S ARREST.
STATEMENT CITED ARTICLE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN
ABC COLOR ON REAPPEARANCE OF ARGENTINE TERRORIST
GALIMBERTI, ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF EX-ARGENTINE
PRESIDENT PEDRO ARAMBURU. MINISTRY SAID,
"....THIS IS NOT THE FIRST CASE, SINCE IN PREVIOUS
EDITIONS THE SAME NEWSPAPER HAS CONSCIOUSLY PUBLISHED
NEWS PROMOTING CRIMES, TERRORISM AND POLITICAL
DELINQUENCY IN GENERAL, COMMITTED BY ADHERENTS TO
MARXIST DOCTRINES."

ABC COLOR RAN EDITORIAL ALONGSIDE MINISTRY STATEMENT
ENTITLED "DEMOCRACY AND FREE PRESS," URGING PUBLIC
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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 05198 171705Z

OBEDIENCE TO THOSE PRINCIPLES IN BROAD TERMS AND

INTENTIONALLY FAILING TO MENTION THOMPSON'S
DETENTION. SATURDAY ABC FILLED FOUR AND A HALF
PAGES WITH PAST EDITORIALS THAT HAD CONDEMNED
TERRORISM, INCLUDING ASSASSINATION OF ARAMBURU, AND
HAD PRAISED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

SAME DAY ULTIMA HORA PUBLISHED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON
MINISTRY'S EXPLANATION OF ARREST WHICH REPEATED
GALIMBERTI ITEM IN APPARENT OPEN DEFIANCE OF MINISTRY.
NO OTHER NEWSPAPERS COMMENTED. ALL THREE INDEPENDENTS
CONTINUE TO PRINT SHORT ITEMS ON THOMPSON'S CONTINUED
DETENTION EVERY FEW DAYS.
JACOBY

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